The Daily Calumet

AMERICA'S OLDEST COMM

VOLUME 89 NUMBER 88 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

UNITY DAILY NEWSPAPER

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1970 ★ 375-2000 PRICE 10¢

ED. DE MAR
22 KANBRIDGE LANE
LINCOLNSHIRE
DEERFIELD, ILL. 60015

VIP-DC

JFK Data 'Hidden': Skolnick

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(Of The Daily Calumet Staff)

Sherman Skolnick has charged that Lee Harvey Oswald, and "at least" six doubles for Oswald had originated a plot to assassinate President John Kennedy in Chicago three weeks before the actual assassination took place in Dallas in November of 1963.

In a suit filed yesterday against the National Archives and Records Service, Skolnick charges that the Archives has concealed documents and records of interviews relating to the alleged plot from the Warren Commission.

He has also claimed that the Secret Service is largely responsible for the concealement of such records and that an as yet unnamed Secret Service agent played a major role in the assassination plot.

Skolnick claims that the plot to kill Kennedy during the Army-Air Force football game in Chicago on Nov. 2, 1963, was "aborted" through the arrest of Thomas Vallee, whom Skolnick alleges to be a double for Oswald, and the man who was assigned to kill the president.

Vallee was being kept under surveillance by Secret Service agents, according to Skolnick, after Acting

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Supervisor Maurice Martineau of the Chicago Secret Service Division was notified by Chief of the U.S. Secret Service James J. Rowley that an assassination plot ot plots were planned during the president's scheduled visit to Chicago.

Skolnick said Martineau called in "all men in his charge in Chicago" and discussed the investigation, stating that no reports were to be written, no file number was to be given to the case, and that Martineau was to report only by phone to Rowley, personally.

Skolnick contends that all Secret Service agents in Chicago were shown four photos of the men allegedly involved in the plot, and that "as a result of surveillance, the plot or plots was thought to be genuine."

The suit charges that Daniel Groth was a key figure in the plot and the abortion of it. According to Skolnick, Groth was listed as a witness on a police report describing the arrest of Vallee two blocks from his home for a minor traffic violation.

Groth (who also headed that State's Attorney's police raid on the home of Black Panther Fred Hampton), "was known to often hang around the U.S. Secret Service office in Chicago," Skolnick said. "Whether Groth was actually in the capacity of private citizen-witness, or Chicago Policeman, or some form of federal agent or operative, remained a mystery to certain Secret Service agents," he said. The legal researcher said yesterday that he does not believe Groth is actually a policeman, but is acting "in some other capacity."

While Vallee was under arrest for the traffic violation, police also reported that they had noticed a hunting knife in the front seat of Vallee's car. Vallee, a critic of the Kennedy administration was arrested for unlawful use of weapons, Skolnick said.

Vallee's arrest "before he could kill Kennedy" was necessary from the assassins' point of view, according to Skolnick, because of the heavy surveillance initiated by Secret Service agents. Skolnick also charges that there are discrepancies in the report, and that the lack of a narrative in the police report describing the circumstances of the arrest in fact benefited the "potential assassin or assassins."

Skolnick said that the words "M-1 (Rifle)" appeared in a section of the police report marked "Alias." He indicated that this was either a code name or that Vallee also had a rifle in the car which was otherwise unexplained by the report.

The researcher also stated that the license plates on the car driven by Vallee at the time of his arrest was registered to Lee Harvey Oswald, and that a "freeze" has been issued by the

FBI to stop all efforts to check on the registration of the plates. Skolnick further linked Vallee to Oswald by saying that the wo men served in the Marine Corps together in Japan.

Skolnick scoffed at a report from the assassination investigation which stated that "no individual by the name of Oswald was arrested on such charge (unlawful use of weapons) on Nov. 2, 1963," although the researcher claims that Thomas Arthur Vallee could be mistaken for the person known as Lee Harvey Oswald.

According to Skolnick, a Secret Service agent named Abraham Bolden was arrested and imprisoned virtually because he planned to reveal "Secret Service laxity, insobriety, and other matters in respect to the assassination."

Alleging that Bolden had discussed his plans to testify before the Warren Commission, Skolnick said that the agent was "ratted on" by his partner, Conroad Cross. Bolden, on a pretext of participating in an investigation," was then flown from Washington to Chicago. Skolnick charges, and was escorted to the office of the then U.S. Attorney, Edward Hanrahan.

Bolden, according to Skolnick, was not allowed to leave the room for any reason, and was then charged by Martineau "with having attempted to sell a government document in respect to a counterfeiting case."

Skolnick claims that although the main witness against Bolden later confessed perjury, Bolden nevertheless, was kept falsely imprisoned."

After serving 39 months in prison, Bolden has since been released on two and a half years probation. Skolnick said that the former agent and his family have been threatened on several occasions, and that Bolden is afraid of further reprisals if he discusses the matter now.

"From time to time," according to Skolnick, "Bolden has made the statement, 'I have evidence that a member of the Secret Service had a part in the planning of the assassination. Someone, an agent, could be indicted on it.'"

Skolnick has added that "in a trial on the merits," he (Skolnick) will bring more information to public attention.

Although Skolnick attached 11 exhibits (which he alleges have previously been concealed by the National Archives) to his lawsuit, he maintains that additonal documents relating to the assassination have been kept a secret and has demanded their release to the public.

The area legal researcher has also demanded that the Warren Commission Report be declared void because of the alleged suppression of such documents.